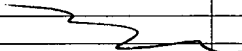


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> O I P E AUG 01 2002 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Substitute for form 1449B/PTO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date Submitted: August 1, 2002 (use as many sheets as necessary)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 of 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Complete if Known</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/069,419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>04/12/2002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Lothar FANNASCH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>Unassigned <i>2876</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Unassigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>048662-0129</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	10/069,419	Filing Date	04/12/2002	First Named Inventor	Lothar FANNASCH	Group Art Unit	Unassigned <i>2876</i>	Examiner Name	Unassigned	Attorney Docket Number	048662-0129
Application Number	10/069,419												
Filing Date	04/12/2002												
First Named Inventor	Lothar FANNASCH												
Group Art Unit	Unassigned <i>2876</i>												
Examiner Name	Unassigned												
Attorney Docket Number	048662-0129												

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
<i>///</i>	A1	4,731,645		PARMENTIER et al.	03/15/1988	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
6/7 6/1 7/1	A2	EP	0 824 301		HITACHI, LTD.	02/18/1998		
	A3	JP	10-121012		SUMITOMO BAKELITE CO., LTD.	05/12/1998		
	A4	EP	0 869 453		ORGA KARTENSTSTEME GMBH	10/07/1998		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature <i>///</i>	Date Considered <i>8/1/03</i>
-------------------------------	-------------------------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.